



VECTORS of Change in Oceans and Seas Marine Life, Impact on Economic Sectors

SP1 - Cooperation

Collaborative Project - Large-scale Integrating Project

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VECTORS Overview

'VECTORS seeks to develop integrated, multidisciplinary research-based understanding that will contribute the information and knowledge required for addressing forthcoming requirements, policies and regulations across multiple sectors.'

Marine life makes a substantial contribution to the economy and society of Europe. In reflection of this VECTORS is a substantial integrated EU funded project of 38 partner institutes with a budget of €16.33 million. It aims to elucidate the drivers, pressures and vectors that cause changes in marine life, the mechanisms by which they do so, the impacts that they have on ecosystem structure and functioning, and on the economics of associated marine sectors and society. VECTORS will particularly focus on the causes and consequences of invasive alien species, outbreak forming species, and changes in fish distribution and productivity. New and existing knowledge and insight will be synthesized and integrated to project changes in marine life, ecosystems and economies under future scenarios for adaptation and mitigation in the light of new technologies, fishing strategies and policy needs. VECTORS will evaluate current forms and mechanisms of marine governance in relation to the vectors of change. Based on its findings, VECTORS will provide solutions and tools for relevant stakeholders and policymakers, to be available for use during the lifetime of the project.

The project will address a complex array of interests comprising areas of concern for marine life, biodiversity, sectoral interests, regional seas, and academic disciplines and especially the interests of stakeholders. VECTORS will ensure that the links and interactions between all these areas of interest are explored, explained, modelled and communicated effectively to the relevant stakeholders. The VECTORS consortium is extremely experienced and genuinely multidisciplinary. It includes a mixture of natural scientists with knowledge of socio-economic aspects, and social scientists (environmental economists, policy and governance analysts and environmental law specialists) with interests in natural system functioning. VECTORS is therefore fully equipped to deliver the integrated interdisciplinary research required to achieve its objectives with maximal impact in the arenas of science, policy, management and society.

www.marine-vectors.eu

Executive Summary

- Knowledge transfer (KT) is the process which facilitates the dissemination of research-based knowledge, expertise and skills between the project and the users of its results (e.g. Policy makers, advisory bodies, research managers, conservation and user groups, management bodies, all at European, regional and national level)
- Development of the VECTORS website to include Dissemination / Knowledge Transfer pages has been conducted in order to meet the requirements of Deliverable 7.2 and ensure that the website facilitates the transfer of research-based knowledge to inform and influence policy decisions.
- These additional pages of the website provide the framework for compiling all of the KT tools that will be generated by the project in one accessible location, such as fact sheets, and will therefore grow and develop with the project and will eventually contribute to the achievement of Deliverable 7.4

Introduction

The transfer of knowledge generated by VECTORS to stakeholders and policy advisors is essential to the long-term success and impact of the project. The website is a key tool for facilitating the dissemination of results that can bring together and showcase all of the resources created throughout the life of the project. The Dissemination pages of the website are focused on transferring VECTORS knowledge through a wide range of mediums that make the research accessible at a range of levels and through a choice of tools. At the most basic level the VECTORS leaflet provides an overview of the project that is very accessible to all stakeholders as well as the general public, while fact sheets will provide a more in-depth account of specific areas of scientific research conducted. Scientific papers and the summer school will, by their very nature, go into the greatest level of detail about research activities that have taken place and the results achieved.

Core Activity

The knowledge transfer page can be accessed through the 'Outreach Tools' tab in the blue bar on every page of the website and from there a range of KT tools can be accessed:

- **Fact Sheets (Task 7.7.1)**

The fact sheets will be the predominant means of communicating scientific knowledge in a compact and concise manner to a wide audience. They will be created as and when new results are generated that are relevant to global science users and practitioners. They will be aimed at a scientific audience but produced in a language that is as clear as possible for as wide a range of stakeholders as can be achieved while maintaining the integrity of the scientific content.

The webpages and fact sheets themselves will provide links to additional webpages, peer reviewed papers and other websites where relevant, so that more detailed information and supporting evidence can be accessed (Task 7.7.2).

The fact sheets will be openly available to download from the website, through the link on the Dissemination page, as well as being made available in hard copy to be distributed at conferences and events.

As VECTORS develops, the key outcomes of the project will be communicated to policy advisors through 'Policy Postcards' aimed at providing very concise and accessible information in a small attention grabbing format that will be backed up by the more detailed fact sheets.

- **VECTORS in View (Task 7.7.3)**

The newsletter is a key means of communicating an up-to-date summary of progress on the project as well as information on publications, meeting dates, and key information relevant to partners. As well as directly disseminating VECTORS knowledge the newsletter will help to raise awareness of the availability of all of the KT tools, such as the fact sheets.

As well as being made available through the website the newsletter will also be sent out to partners, RAB and RUG members electronically.

Newsletter: http://www.marine-vectors.eu/dissemination/vectors_in_view.aspx

- **Knowledge Transfer Contacts Database (Task 7.4)**

The contacts database will form the basis for communications to stakeholders and policy makers and will be available through the website for all of the partners to use. The database has been compiled from existing relevant stakeholder contact information held by PML and new contacts submitted by our VECTORS partners. The database and its benefits are covered in more detail in the D7.1 report.

- **Reference User Group (Task 7.4.2)**

The VECTORS Reference User Group (RUG) are a key means of ensuring continuous input and guidance from independent sector experts who will eventually be users of the scientific research generated by the project. They will help to guide the project to ensure the results will be usable and relevant for their sector by reviewing reports, advising individual science areas and attending meetings at which they will frequently be asked to present feedback to the group as well as provide updates from their sector to ensure that VECTORS research is continuously at the cutting edge of policy.

The link from the Dissemination page of the website provides a short biography of each of the RUG members ensuring that the VECTORS scientists and researchers are aware of the expertise available to them and can easily contact the RUG members for specific advice and guidance. In addition this information is also available for Research Advisory Board members to ensure that there is a thorough understanding of the external expertise available across both groups.

RUG: http://www.marine-vectors.eu/about_the_project/rug.aspx

- **Training School (Task 7.8) and Ecosystem Services Summer School (Task 7.8.1)**

Training opportunities will be organised at appropriate stages of the project to directly disseminate knowledge and expertise on marine ecosystem services and their valuation to early career European researchers. Details of these events will be promoted through these pages of the website when available.

- **Workshops and Conferences (Task 7.9)**

VECTORS scientists will attend a great number of events, conferences, workshops and seminars etc. across the life of the project and will therefore have a variety of opportunities to raise awareness of the project and their research. The Project Management team will ensure that the scientists are equipped with the tools necessary to capitalise on these opportunities by providing leaflets, generic presentations, poster artwork and the use of banners, all of which are available through the 'Information for Partners' section of the website.

Furthermore VECTORS will organise at least one major public event where stakeholder participation will be encouraged. Regional Seas workshops will be used as an opportunity to host public events for stakeholder consultations, such as 'information days'.

The workshops and conferences link will provide access to dissemination tools for partners to use as well as a calendar of events to keep partners and stakeholders aware of forthcoming meetings.

Information for Partners: http://www.marine-vectors.eu/information_for_partners.aspx

Meetings calendar: http://www.marine-vectors.eu/news_and_events/calendar.aspx

- **Scientific Publications**

A list of all peer reviewed papers and publications generated through VECTORS is available with links to the appropriate websites where these can be viewed, although they will not all necessarily be open access.

The scientific publications will, in most cases, link directly to fact sheets and policy postcards to ensure a consistent dissemination of VECTORS outcomes across the range of KT tools as well as ensuring that the information is available at a range of levels.

Highlights from VECTORS publications, written in an accessible manner for a non-specialist audience, will also be available from the VECTORS website.

Publications: http://www.marine-vectors.eu/research_activities/publications.aspx

Conclusion

The VECTORS website has been developed to a high standard to ensure the effective facilitation and accessibility of VECTORS knowledge transfer tools. Although many of these tools have not yet been developed the website is in place to act as a globally accessible showcase for them as and when they are.

Appendix 1: Screenshot of 'Outreach Tools' page

Home | Contact Us | Site Map | Text Only Version

VECTORS

About the project | News and events | Research highlights | Outreach tools | VECTORS Blog | Information for Partners

You are in: Home Page - VECTORS - Outreach tools

- ▶ Meetings calendar
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ RUG
- ▶ VECTORS in View

Outreach tools and knowledge transfer

Knowledge transfer is the process which facilitates the dissemination and exchange of research-based knowledge, expertise and skills between the project and the user of its results.

As the VECTORS project covers such a complex array of sectoral interests, the key to the success of the project will be ensuring that the links between all the areas of interest are explored and elucidated and then effectively communicated to the relevant stakeholders.

Therefore the overall aim of VECTORS knowledge transfer and dissemination activities is to communicate the science of VECTORS to target groups and promote its use in the wider management, policy and user communities to influence and support the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive, European Maritime Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy and EU implementation of the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention.

VECTORS will undertake a wide variety of knowledge transfer and dissemination activities including:

- Factsheet series**
Information sheets describing the key findings and outputs from VECTORS research
- VECTORS in View**
An electronic newsletter giving the latest information on the progress of the project
- Knowledge Transfer Contacts Database**
The database will provide contact details for organisations, and relevant individuals, who have a potential interest in the scientific outputs of VECTORS.
- Reference User Group**
The Reference User Group will facilitate communication with stakeholders.
- Training School**
A training school will be organised to ensure that the VECTORS interdisciplinary research legacy is properly established in the marine research community, particularly the new generation of environmental economists.
- Ecosystem Services Summer School**
A summer school will be organised which focusses on providing training on marine ecosystem services and their valuation, as explored through VECTORS.
- Workshops and conferences**
VECTORS will arrange at least one major public event for communication of the broad results of the project to stakeholders and will also aim to hold special themed sessions at major international meetings. Regional seas workshops will be used as an opportunity for regional public events. Products from VECTORS meetings are available to download for VECTORS partners.
- Scientific publications**
VECTORS will spread scientific excellence through publications in high ranking scientific journals.

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